

## *Kamran Akmal Criticizes Asia Cup Squad Selection, Calls for Senior Players*



KARACHI (News Desk) – Former Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Kamran Akmal has said that senior players should have been included in the squad for the Asia Cup. Sharing his views on team selection, Akmal stated that Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan deserved a place in the squad. According to him, the announced squad was fine for the tri-series, but for a high-profile tournament like the Asia Cup, the team should have been selected more thoughtfully. Akmal emphasized that the squad must be chosen with the crucial match against India in mind and recent performances should have been considered. He further criticized the system, saying merit was ignored, as has been happening for the past eight years. The former cricketer added that team selections have long been based on favoritism rather than merit, and when non-cricketers are involved in board decisions, such blunders are bound to occur.

## *Sinner and Alcaraz Reach Cincinnati Open Final*

OHIO (News Desk) – Italy’s renowned tennis star, world No.1, and defending champion Jannik Sinner, along with Spain’s prominent tennis star and second seed Carlos Alcaraz, continued their winning streaks to reach the men’s singles final of the Cincinnati Open Tennis Tournament. The 24-year-old Italian secured his spot in the final by defeating French tennis player Terence Atmane in the semi-final round. Meanwhile, Spain’s second-seeded Carlos Alcaraz earned his place in the final after overcoming Germany’s third seed Alexander Zverev. The tournament, being held in Cincinnati, Ohio, is showcasing thrilling contests, offering tennis fans highly engaging matches. On his birthday, Jannik Sinner delivered a stellar performance, defeating Atmane in straight sets with a tie-break, 6-7(4-7), 2-6, to qualify for the final. It is worth mentioning that in the past three years, Sinner has shown remarkable progress by winning four Grand Slam titles, now holding the world’s top ranking in men’s singles. In the final, he will face Spain’s top star Carlos Alcaraz. In another semi-final match, 22-year-old Spanish star Carlos Alcaraz displayed exceptional play, beating Germany’s Alexander Zverev in straight sets, 4-6, 3-6, to secure his spot in the tournament’s final.



## *Pakistan Thrashes Thailand 16-2 in Opening Match of BFA U-15 Asian Baseball Championship*

TAIPEI, (News Desk) – Pakistan made a spectacular start to the BFA U-15 Asian Baseball Championship 2025 by defeating Thailand 16-2 in their opening group match. On the first day of the tournament in Taiwan, the Pakistani team delivered an all-round performance, dominating every aspect of the game. The five-inning contest saw Pakistan exert pressure right from the beginning, scoring in every inning. The team put up 2 runs in the first inning, 2 in the second, 4 in the third, 5 in the fourth, and 3 more in the fifth, totaling 16 runs from 10 hits, while restricting their opponents to just 2 runs. Pakistan’s batting lineup shone brightly, with Okasha Israr emerging as the standout performer. He registered 2 doubles, 4 RBIs, 2 base-on-balls, and 2 stolen bases, giving the team a solid foundation. Wahidullah contributed 2 RBIs and 3 stolen bases, while Ihtiram Khan impressed with a triple, an RBI, and a sacrifice hit. Contributions also came from Ameer Jan Khan, Mustafa Ghazi, Shah Sikandar, Shehzad Khan, and Ammar Khan, all adding to the team’s scoreboard. On the bowling front, Atif Muhammad was outstanding, giving away just 1 hit and no runs in 3 innings while claiming 6 strikeouts. Ihtiram Khan bowled 0.1 innings and Shehzad Khan delivered 1.2 innings, conceding only 2 runs combined. Pakistan also recorded 9 stolen bases during the match. Despite making 3 fielding errors, the team’s aggressive batting and disciplined bowling ensured a massive victory. Pakistan will now face the host team, Chinese Taipei, in their second match today.



## *Iga Swiatek and Jasmine Paolini Reach Cincinnati Open Final*

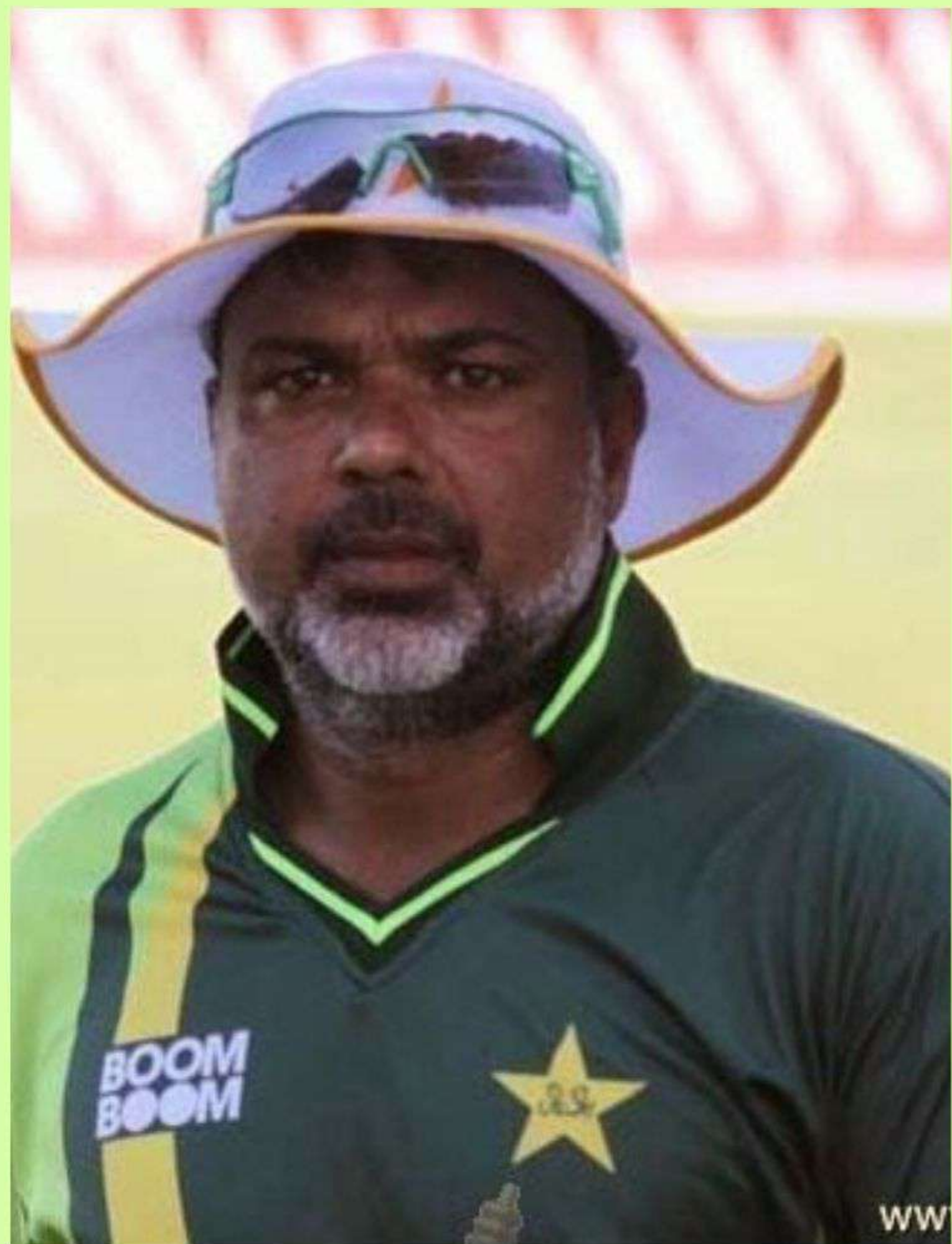
OHIO (News Desk) – Poland’s renowned tennis star, six-time Grand Slam champion and third seed of the event, Iga Swiatek, along with Italy’s Jasmine Paolini, have advanced to the women’s singles final of the WTA Cincinnati Open tennis tournament, while Kazakhstan’s Elena Rybakina was knocked out after losing in the semifinal stage. Rybakina had earlier stunned Belarusian star, world No.1, top seed, and defending champion Aryna Sabalenka in the quarterfinal to book her semifinal spot. The 24-year-old Swiatek overpowered Kazakhstan’s Elena Rybakina in the women’s singles semifinal, while Italy’s Jasmine Paolini defeated Russia’s Veronika Kudermetova in the other semifinal clash. The WTA event is being held at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, Ohio, where fans are witnessing thrilling tennis action. In the semifinal, the 24-year-old Polish star and six-time Grand Slam winner displayed superb performance to outclass 26-year-old Elena Rybakina in straight sets by 5-7, 3-6, reaching the Cincinnati Open final for the very first time.



## *Irfan Pathan Reveals Dressing Room Clash with Senior Indian Cricketer*

NEW DELHI (News Desk) – Former Indian all-rounder Irfan Pathan has revealed that in the past he had a physical altercation with a senior Indian player in the dressing room over batting order issues. Pathan, who often shares unpleasant experiences from his cricketing career, disclosed that during one such incident, a senior batsman grabbed him by the collar regarding his batting position. Recalling those tense days, Pathan said he faced immense stress while playing for the Indian team. He claimed that a senior player, who believed himself to be better than Pathan, grabbed his collar simply because he was sent to bat ahead of him. The incident reportedly took place when the team management and captain decided to send Pathan higher up the batting order, possibly in a match against Pakistan or Sri Lanka. Remembering the incident, Pathan said, “I didn’t say anything to him as I was very young at the time. That player thought he was a better batsman than me.” The former cricketer, however, refused to reveal the name of the senior player, stating that he does not want to disrespect anyone as there is no permanent friendship or enmity in cricket.

## *National Bowler Aizaz Ejaz Urges Government to Promote Tenpin Bowling in Pakistan*



ISLAMABAD (News Desk) – Pakistan’s national tenpin bowling player Aizaz Ejaz has urged the government to take steps for the promotion of tenpin bowling in the country. Speaking to the media, he said that there is no shortage of talent in Islamabad and across Pakistan, but players need proper facilities and resources. He expressed joy over Islamabad’s team winning the doubles title in the Azadi Cup Tenpin Bowling Championship, in which he was also a participant. The championship featured male and female players from across the country, showcasing new talent. Aizaz Ejaz further stated that players often participate in events in other cities on a self-support basis, with occasional assistance from the Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation. He appealed to the government to activate the Sports Board in Islamabad so that local players can also benefit from proper facilities and opportunities.



## *Pakistani Athletes Shine in Malaysia Taekwondo Championship, Win 12 Gold and 4 Silver Medals*

ISLAMABAD (News Desk) – President of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (Women’s Wing), Saba Shamim Jadoon, has congratulated Pakistani athletes and Federation President Colonel (R) Wasim Ahmad Janjua on the remarkable success in the recently held International Taekwondo Championship in Malaysia. She expressed hope that under the leadership of Colonel (R) Wasim Ahmad Janjua, Pakistani players will continue to achieve international victories. It is noteworthy that Pakistani athletes showcased outstanding performances in the 7th Heroes International Taekwondo Championship, securing 12 gold and 4 silver medals. Mian Ghufuran Ali bagged 2 gold and 2 silver medals and was also awarded the Best Coach Award. Tayyaba Ashraf from Lahore clinched 3 gold medals, while Sumbul Khan won 2 gold and 1 silver medal. Hafiz Nasir Bashir from Faisalabad claimed a gold medal in the 90kg fight, and Nabeel Khalid from Lahore earned 2 gold and 1 silver medal. Shahroze Arshad also secured a gold medal in the 80+ kg category.